

JOB5 REC'D PAT/TC 11 APR 2002 1733

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Dane Kenton Parker, et al)
For: PREPARATION AND USE OF)
NANOCOMPOSITE OF ELASTOMER AND)
EXFOLIATED CLAY PLATELETS FORMED IN)
SITU WITHIN AN ELASTOMER HOST AND)
ARTICLES OF MANUFACTURE, INCLUDING)
TIRES, HAVING AT LEAST ONE)
COMPONENT COMPRISED THEREOF)
Serial No. 10/037,539)
Filed: December 21, 2001)

Docket No. DN2001214
Art Unit: 1733
Examiner:

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Stacy J. Sidle
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Assistant Commissioner of Patents
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Washington, D.C. 20231

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TC 1700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please make the following amendments to the claims in order to more particularly point
and distinctly claim the Applicants' invention.

In the Claims

Cancel claims 17 through 20.

Add the following new claims 21 through 32.

21. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein said process further comprises:

(A) using an emulsion stabilizing amount of said cationic surfactant in said latex for
said polymerization of said monomers to prevent coagulation of resultant elastomer particles from
said latex,

(B) following completion of said polymerization of said monomers, adding an
increased amount of the same or additional cationic surfactant to said latex to increase the amount
of cationic surfactant available for ion exchange with cationic exchangeable ions contained in the
galleries of said water-swellaable clay, and thereafter,

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